



March 17, 2016

MARCH 17 BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

2016 Operating Budget approved; Search and Rescue looking for hi-tech help; Fire equipment going to Firefighters without Borders

2016 Operating Budget approved

The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George Board of Directors has approved the 2016 Operating Budget and Five-Year Financial Plan.

The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George provides 89 services to residents of its seven electoral areas and to the City of Prince George, District of Mackenzie, Village of Valemount and Village of McBride. Operating expenditures for the Regional District in 2016 will total \$42.8 million, \$6.5 million more than the 2015 budget. Of the \$42.8 million, \$18 million will be funded through property taxation, which is an increase of \$500,000 over 2015. Most of the other funding for the budget increase for 2016 is coming in the form of grants and use of reserve funds.

Significant 2016 budgeted expenditures provided by the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George include Solid Waste Management (\$19.3 million); 9-1-1 Emergency Response Services (\$3.5 million); Protective Services (\$5.2 million) and Recreation & Cultural Services (\$3.1 million)

Search and Rescue looking for hi-tech help

Representatives from Prince George Search and Rescue presented an overview of the rescue services that are provided throughout the region. Since 2010, there have been 327 incidents in the region that the Prince George, Mackenzie and Robson Valley Search and Rescue agencies have responded to, with a total of 15,287 volunteer hours. To assist in their search and rescue efforts, the agencies are requesting assistance from the Regional District for the purchase of iPads for an internal mapping system to aid in their work. The iPads would provide high quality, upgradable, ortho-based maps on site using online mapping platforms such as Google Earth. Technology also makes it possible to overlay information to these maps such as recreational trails, forest roads, avalanche assessments and important features such as road closures, cabin sites, river launches and many others. The Regional District Board referred the request to administration to explore possible funding options.

Fire Equipment going to Firefighters without Borders

Fire equipment from Beverly Fire Rescue and Chilako River-Nechako Rescue is on its way to Firefighters without Borders, an organization whose mission is to protect life, property and the environment in communities around the world by providing professional fire training education, resources and support. The Beverly Fire Rescue service will be sending a 1987 Mack Pumper Truck, while the Chilako River-Nechako Rescue will be sending a 1984 International rescue truck. Each piece of equipment is being sold at a nominal price of \$100.

Community Grants

The Board approved the following requests for Community and Recreation Grants:

- \$750 to the Nukko Lake Recreation Commission for a community appreciation event
- \$1197 to the Salmon Valley Community Association for insurance
- \$10,895 to the Miworth Community Association for insurance, utilities and expenses
- \$45,000 to the Red Rock/Stoner Volunteer Fire Department Society for the construction of a training facility
- \$20,000 to the Tabor Lake Clean Up Society for operating expenses
- \$5000 to the Hixon Community Association for general hall and grounds maintenance
- \$2900 to the Giscome Elementary Advisory Council for swim lessons
- \$3500 to the Longworth Recreation Commission for insurance, utilities and miscellaneous expenses
- \$3500 to the Canoe Valley Community Association for the Active Living Kids Pilot Project

For further information, please contact

Renee McCloskey
Manager of External Relations
Regional District of Fraser-Fort George
250-960-4453



REGIONAL DISTRICT
of Fraser-Fort George